

1000 35 OCT 19 P157

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 99D-0557

Gentlemen\Ladies:

Last January the Council of Europe, a body which represents 40 countries, recommended a worldwide ban on the transplanting of animal body parts into human beings (xenotransplants). I am alarmed that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, despite acknowledging the dangers of using nonhuman primates for these purposes, is nonetheless promoting research in this area.

Although many health authorities disapprove of any xenotransplantation, pigs are now the animal of choice for such procedures. Yet pig viruses carry fully as much danger to human recipients as do primate viruses.

If ever there were a Pandora's box which ought not to be opened, this is it. Inadvertently placing an unknown animal virus into a human host and having it tear through and wipe out vast numbers of people is a scenario best left to the realm of science fiction.

Sincerely yours,

Roni Zambura

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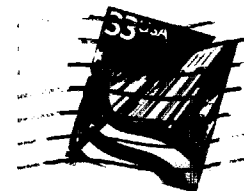
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